



City of Jacksonville

Building Safety Month, May 2015

Week 1
May 4-10

Don't Get Burned - Build To Code

Fire Safety

- Put a smoke alarm on every level of your home and outside each sleeping area. Put a smoke alarm inside every bedroom.
- Make sure your smoke alarms work. Test your smoke alarms. Push the test button. You will hear a loud noise. If you don't hear the noise, you need a new battery or a new alarm.
- Make sure the smoke alarm always has a good battery. Put a new battery in the alarm every year.
- Smoke alarms with long-life batteries will work for up to 10 years. You do not change the battery.
- Smoke alarms do not last forever. Get new smoke alarms every 10 years.
- Tell your family what to do if they hear the smoke alarm. Make an escape plan so everyone knows how to get out fast. Pick a meeting place outside the home where everyone will meet. Some children and older adults cannot hear the smoke alarm when they are sleeping. Make a plan for how to wake them up. Practice your escape plan with everyone in your family two times each year.
- Install home fire sprinklers in your home. Home fire sprinklers and working smoke alarms greatly increase your chance of surviving a fire. Sprinklers are affordable and they can increase your property value and lower your insurance rates.
- Portable heaters need their space. Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away.

Areas with homes located close to forests or high vegetation areas:

- Install 1/8 inch or smaller mesh screening that cannot burn on attic/soffit vents and around wood decks to keep out embers. Install spark arrestors on fire place chimneys or wood stove vents.
- Keep all items that can burn away from your home. Clean leaves from your gutters. Clear dead leaves and branches from shrubs and trees.



JacksonvilleNC.gov/PermittingPlanningZoning
JacksonvilleNC.gov/CodesAndOrdinances